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Pregnancy Risk Assessment  
Monitoring System

### For More information Contact:

NE PRAMS  
Office of Family Health  
Nebraska Health and Human Services  
PO BOX 95044  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5044  
Phone: 1-877-873-1876

Dental Health Division  
Health and Human Services System  
P.O. Box 95007  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007  
Phone: (402) 471-1077  
[www.hhs.state.ne.us/dental](http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/dental)

1. Nebraska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (NE PRAMS) 2000 Data. Office of Family Health, Nebraska Health and Human Services.

NE PRAMS is an ongoing survey that collects data from women on the events before, during and shortly after their pregnancy.

NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM



# If You Are Pregnant Visit the Dentist



## Find Out Why

## Why is Oral Health Care Important?

Pregnancy is a time when you need to take extra care of your teeth and gums. Actions you take can prevent oral problems as well as affect the general health of your unborn child.

### Dental Check-ups:

- ❖ If you are planning to become pregnant, see your dentist so any possible problems can be handled before pregnancy.
- ❖ All women should see a dentist in the first trimester (1-12 weeks). However, in Nebraska only about half (56%) of women get dental care during their pregnancy <sup>1</sup>.
- ❖ Be sure to tell your dentist if you are or think you might be pregnant.
- ❖ For help locating a dentist, please call the Nebraska Dental Association at (402) 476-1704 or visit [www.hhs.state.ne.us/dental](http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/dental) for the Public Dental Clinic Directory.



One in four Nebraska women reported that they needed to see a dentist for a problem during pregnancy but only 59% saw a dentist for that problem <sup>1</sup>.

### Common Oral Health Problems During Pregnancy

- ❖ **Bleeding Gums (Gingivitis):**  
Plaque and an increase in hormones may cause your gums to swell. If you have red, puffy, or sore gums that bleed when you brush, see a dentist.
- ❖ **Pregnancy Tumors (not cancer):**  
Overgrowth or severe swelling of gum tissue between teeth is related to excess plaque. If this happens, see a dentist.
- ❖ **Bone Loss (Periodontal Disease):**  
Women with periodontal disease are more likely to have a premature or low birth weight baby. If you do not get care for swollen gums it may cause bone loss around teeth.
- ❖ **Tooth Decay-You and Your Infant:**  
Children can get tooth decay from their mothers when the bacteria that causes decay is passed by sharing



eating utensils or cleaning a pacifier with saliva. Avoid spreading bacteria and keep your regular dental visits.

### How can I prevent these problems?

- ❖ Stop smoking.
- ❖ Be sure to visit a dentist for regular cleanings.
- ❖ Brush your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.
- ❖ Clean between your teeth with floss daily.
- ❖ Ask your dentist or hygienist for advice on care for you and your new baby.